

State Board of Education Meeting Audio - Part 1

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes,

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Nina Lou Bunting; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan; and Barbara B. Rutt. Acting Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present. Vice President Jorge Melendez arrived after roll call was taken.

The agenda was approved as amended. The DIAA regulations were removed and an action item to place Delaware Met on formal review was added. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Heffernan to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Not Present – Mr. Melendez).

Minutes from the retreat of September 14, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the minutes of the retreat as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried by voice vote (Abstain – Mrs. Rutt; Not Present – Mr. Melendez).

Minutes from the regular meeting of September 17, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and did not carry since two Board members abstained. President Gray noted that this item would be brought up for action later in the meeting after Mr. Melendez arrived.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2

Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, Update from Executive Director, Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities, Acting Secretary's Report

Public Comment

Kevin Ohlandt welcomed Acting Secretary Godowsky and asked that he take a thorough look into Response to Intervention (RtI) and special education. He stated that RtI delays students that need special education services from receiving them in a timely fashion.

Committee Reports and Executive Director's Update

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mrs. Bunting attended the DSBA Board meeting noting the organization will be searching for a new executive director in January. Mrs. Rutt attended the State Board's professional workshop and Mr. Heffernan attended the charter school awards dinner. Ms. Johnson provided the Board with a summary of her activities and also noted the items that were posted for the Board and the public to read posted under her report on the agenda. She commented on the State Board's workshop scheduled on standards and assessment and stated the resources provided by the State Board are available on its webpage. The State Board's next workshop is scheduled for November 3rd and will focus on Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Johnson reported that the funding for these workshops scheduled for education stakeholders are included in the grant the State Board received from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Dr. Gray highlighted her recent experience on the topic of Safeguard my Meds, Prescription Drug Abuse. She provided facts and figures as well as the website to find additional information and resources.

The Board also received a brief update on the SREO from Ms. Johnson. The SREO is currently in the data collection phase of the project. Having already collected the data available from the state data system, they currently are surveying districts to gather local choice and program information. Depending on how quickly and thoroughly this can be collected the final report may be delayed from the initial November projected timeline.

Acting Secretary's Report

President Gray welcomed Dr. Godowsky who provided his Acting Secretary's Report. He thanked the culinary students that were in attendance and thanked them for preparing and joining the State Board for lunch and for the great conversation. Dr. Godowsky noted that his confirmation hearing is scheduled for October 28th and talked about meeting with education groups and stakeholders throughout the State as well as Department staff. He noted that a priority for him is to improve internal communications within the Department and external communications with districts/charter schools and stakeholders.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3

Educators as Catalyst – Culinary Arts Career Technology Education Pathways

Joined by several high school culinary students and their instructors, CTE and STEM Director Luke Rhine provided an overview of the Culinary and Hospitality Management Program of Study. The State model offers a three credit or six credit program that partners with Delaware Technical and Community College and the Delaware Restaurant Association. Seven high schools current offer the three credit model and Mr. Rhine noted that financial support for the six credit model is currently available through the Innovation Grant. Teachers/chefs from Seaford High School, Polytech High School and St. George's High School then provided insight into their programs and offerings. The students in attendance were also recognized.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 4

WEIC Update

Dr. Joe Pika, co-chair of the WEIC Redistricting Committee provided an update for the State Board. Dr. Dan Rich from the University of Delaware joined Dr. Pika for the presentation. A brief overview of the recommendations of the WEAC final report were noted in that Christina and Colonial should no longer serve Wilmington students and Red Clay should take responsibility for all Wilmington schools in the Christina School District and Red Clay or Brandywine should take responsibility for Wilmington students served by the Colonial School District. The draft plan of the Redistricting Committee will be released for public comment on November 17th. Dr. Pika stated that the plan would not be just a Wilmington plan but a statewide project. The Redistricting Committee has been reviewing research and working with the funding committee on meeting the needs of the Wilmington students. Currently there are 18 public education governance entities that serve Wilmington students. Information was provided on the town hall meetings and what the public record will contain.

Board members asked about the research the committee has used for its analysis as well as a comparison of the WEIC funding committee and the Education Funding Improvement Commission. The State Board also pointed out that at a recent board meeting the Colonial School District Board of Education voted to not release its students. Dr. Rich commented that a strip of property in the Colonial District is actually surrounded by three districts. Dusty Blakey, Superintendent of the Colonial School District, also a WEIC Redistricting Committee member, was in the audience and was asked to comment on his Board's decision. Dr. Blakey stated that the district did an academic analysis of its students in that area (low SES) and stated that the Colonial students have higher achievement levels than comparable students in the other Wilmington districts. The Colonial District Board felt that the students would not be better served if transferred to a different district. These Colonial students also receive health services and other resources. The State Board stressed that they were still under how the proposed plan from WEIC would directly impact student learning and expressed concern that students needed improvements to their educational opportunities now not just in the future. The State Board also voiced its concern that it was essential that resources be available from the legislature to support any plan that is recommended and was concerned what would happen if those funds were not available. The State Board will receive the redistricting plan at its December 17th State Board meeting and action is anticipated at the Board's January meeting. If the Board declines the plan WEIC will have sixty days for resubmission. Dr. Rich stated that any approved plan would be implemented in the fall of 2018. Mr. Heffernan reminded all to not lose sight of the goal of improved teaching and learning for students. Mrs. Bunting commented that high quality teachers with high expectations has the greatest impact on students.

The Board recessed for ten minutes.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 5

SAT Presentation, Department Regulations, Charter School Items, Professional Standards Board, Budget Amendment to Perkins State Plan, Appeals, Approval, of Minutes, Information Items, Adjournment

2015 Delaware SAT Results

Michael Watson, Chief Academy Officer; Carolyn Lazar, Interim Director of Assessments and Allison Procopio from College Board presented the Class of 2015 results. The Class of 2015 results include students who took the SAT at any point during high school and the SAT School Day results are for the SAT day where all public school 11th graders take the test during the school day. Delaware is one of the leaders in the country in participation and had a total of 8,155 public school test takers. Average scores are below the national average but increased from last year's average. Critical reading was up six points to 444 and mathematics was up three points to 445. The writing average score was 425. Average scores from the SAT School day were critical reading at 440, mathematics at 433 and writing at 420. The Board received the average scores for each public high school and the percent of students meeting the College Board benchmark for college readiness of 1550. The SAT presentation also highlighted the changes to the SAT for spring 2016 and the improvements to the student report. The Board discussed the participation rates on the SAT in 11th grade and the accommodations available and implemented for students with IEP's.

There was brief discussion of the possibility of using the new SAT as the state high school assessment in the future, as was listed in the 5 Year Assessment Plan published by the Department.

Department Regulations

It was noted that the three DIAA regulations were withdrawn by the Department due to comments received. It is anticipated that the DIAA regulations will be placed on the Board's November agenda. Regulation 811 was for the Board's information.

Charter Schools

David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee and Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the Board with the charter school items.

Delaware Met – Formal Review

It was noted that the Charter School Office is seeking to submit the charter of The Delaware Met to formal review to determine whether the school is violating the terms of its charter and whether to order remedial measures under the Delaware Code. The issues for formal review include, but are not limited to, concerns about the school's compliance with its charter, financial viability, policies regarding student conduct and discipline, and appropriate strategies to accommodate the needs of at-risk students and those needing special education services. Acting Secretary of Education Godowsky asked for the State Board's assent for the formal review of then Delaware Met in accordance with the requirements of 14 Delaware Code, §511(c). A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to consent to placing The Delaware Met on formal review as recommended by the Acting Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board expressed its concerns about the allegations that have surfaced and the safety of the students attending the school. They stressed the importance of making these decisions on documented concerns versus hearsay since this was a serious step in the role of an authorizer. They had additional dialog related to specific concerns from site visits or other documented events collected by the Charter School Office.

The Board received an update on the schools currently on probation and information on the 2014 audit.

Professional Standards Board

PSB Executive Director Chris Kenton presented the PSB items to the State Board.

Lead for Delaware

The application for a Leadership Certification Program, Lead for Delaware, has been submitted for review. Representatives for the application were present to explain its components of 1000 hours of professional development over two years as they continue to teach. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to recommend approval to the Acting Secretary of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regulation 1502 Professional Growth Salary Increments was approved for publication. The motion was made by Mrs. Rutt and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regulation 1506 Emergency Certificate was approved for publication. The motion was made by Mrs. Bunting and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Budget Amendment to Perkins State Plan

Ms. Johnson directed Board members to the information item on the amendment to the Perkins State Plan that was due to the federal budget resolution. The State Board serves as the eligible agency for the Perkins State Plan.

Appeals

Deputy Attorney General Kirshon provided the State Board with an update on the current appeal.

Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board returned to the approval of the regular meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of the Board's September 17th regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried by voice vote (Abstain – Mr. Coverdale, Mrs. Rutt).

Information Items

Information items were noted for the State Board including the upcoming workshop on Superintendent Evaluation scheduled for November 3rd.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Steven H. Godowsky, Acting Executive Secretary and
Acting Secretary of Education